



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

SENIOR HEALTH PHYSICIST

Class No. 004701

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

Under administrative direction, to plan, organize, conduct and supervise a County-wide Radiation Control Program in the investigation, inspection and study of radiological health hazards in industrial, medical, dental, research, and industrial facilities involving the use of radioactive material or other sources of radiation; to determine compliance with rules and regulations governing radiation use; and to perform related work as assigned.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Senior Health Physicist is a first line supervisor class in the Hazardous Materials Division of the Department of Environmental Health. The Senior Health Physicist is a program manager responsible for directing the Radiation Control Program. It is distinguished from the lower class Associate Health Physicist in that the latter's primary responsibility is to inspect, investigate, and survey the use of radiological equipment and facilities. It is distinguished from the higher class Chief, Environmental Health in that the latter is responsible for managing a department division.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of functions listed in the class specification are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class. Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

1. Plans and conducts compliance inspections of radioactive material users.
2. Advises professional and technical staff in public/private facilities on the radiological safety aspects of facilities, equipment or experiments involving the use of radioisotopes and radiation machines.
3. Provides consultation and assistance to physicians, dentists, laboratory, and other professional and technical personnel.
4. Works in close cooperation with the State Radiological Health Branch, Environmental Health Department staff, and other government agencies, hospitals, laboratories and industry to determine and eliminate radiological health hazards.
5. Prepares and reviews technical reports and correspondence.
6. Addresses the public and professional groups.
7. Conducts in-service and public education training programs.
8. Supervises decontamination procedures in case of radiological incidents.
9. Plans, assigns and reviews the work of subordinate personnel.
10. Provides responsive, high quality service to County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public by providing accurate, complete and up-to-date information, in a courteous, efficient and timely manner.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Principles, techniques, and practices of radiation protection and health physics.
- Theory and practical design of shielding for protection against radiation.
- Accurate measurement of doses of radiation and the design and application of instruments used to measure radiation.
- Radiation measurement methods and procedures.
- Operating standards required for a variety of radiologic equipment.
- Current clinical techniques in radiologic technology.
- Radioactive waste disposal techniques and procedures.

- Biological effects of radiation on people and the environment.
- Theories of nuclear physics.
- Principles of supervision and training techniques.
- Evaluation of radiation hazards.
- Rules and regulations governing radiation use. Operation of X-ray monitor, Ion Chamber, Nuclear Survey Meter, Kilovoltage Meter and Fluoroscope, etc.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Analyze situations accurately and take effective actions.
- Interpret rules and regulations governing the proper use of radiologic equipment.
- Demonstrate the proper use of radiologic equipment.
- Read and understand equipment manual, diagrams, and schematics
- Evaluate radiation shielding plans and specifications.
- Supervise and train subordinates.
- Deal effectively with industry, community groups and agencies to gain cooperation in the implementation of Radiation Control Laws.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Establish effective working relationships with management, employees, employee representatives and the public representing diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Treat County employees, representative of outside agencies and members of the public with courtesy and respect.
- Exercise appropriate judgment in answering questions and releasing information; analyze and project consequences of decisions and/or recommendations.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are: a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the physical sciences or biological sciences, AND, two (2) years of experience in managing a radiation control program.

■ ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities which, may include the following:

- Frequent: sitting and walking.
- Occasional: standing, bending of the neck and waist, squatting, kneeling, twisting neck and waist, repetitive use of hands, simple grasping left and right hand, fine manipulation left and right hand, reaching above and below shoulder level, and lifting objects weighing up to 25 pounds.
- Operate assigned or personal motor vehicle.

■ SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS

License

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment, or the ability to arrange necessary and timely transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own vehicle.

Certification/Registration

None Required.

Working Conditions

Works around equipment and machinery during inspections of industrial sites. Walks on uneven ground. May be exposed to biohazards or ionizing radiation at inspection sites.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Probationary Period

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 6 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

New: February 12, 1986
Revised: April 10, 1986
Revised: March 12, 1992
Revised: January 11, 2001
Revised: June 15, 2004

Senior Health Physicist (Class No. 004701)

Union Code: MM

Variable Entry: Y